

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 NRC-07
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E.O.: 11652 N/A
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, PARM, GW, FR
SUBJECT: PRESS COMMENTS ABOUT FRENCH-GERMAN
NUCLEAR CONSULTATIONS

REF: A. PARIS 3661; B. BONN 2377

1. SUMMARY. IN SOMETIMES CONTRADICTORY COMMENT,
MOST GERMAN NEWSPAPERS NOTE THAT THE 29TH
FRENCH-GERMAN CONSULTATION MEETING BETWEEN
GISCARD D'ESTAING AND HELMUT SCHMIDT DID NOT
RPT. NOT DEVELOP A JOINT POSITION RESISTING
AMERICAN PRESSURE AGAINST THE EXPORT OF
SENSITIVE NUCLEAR FACILITIES. PRESS COMMENTS
NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS SEEM
DETERMINED TO FULFILL THEIR OBLIGATIONS
AND DELIVER REPROCESSING PLANTS TO BRASIL
AND PAKISTAN RESPECTIVELY. END SUMMARY.

2. ALL MAJOR PAPERS REPORT FRENCH AND GERMAN
DETERMINATION TO CURB THE FURTHER SPREAD
OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS BY APPLICATION OF APPROPRIATE
SAFEGUARDS TO ANY SALE OF NUCLEAR EQUIPMENT.
HOWEVER, AT THE SAME TIME THEY SEE A STRONG
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MUTUAL INTEREST IN PROMOTING THE PEACEFUL USE
OF NUCLEAR ENERGY BY THE EXPORT OF SUCH
TECHNOLOGY TO THE LDC'S.

3. THE "FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG" (FAZ)
EXPLAINS IN ITS FEB.5 EDITION THAT THIS
POSITION COINCIDES WITH AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR

THE SALE AND OPERATION OF NUCLEAR REACTORS
PROVIDED NON-MILITARY USE IS GUARANTEED.
HOWEVER, FAZ CONTINUES THAT THE FRG AND FRANCE
MIGHT BE COMPELLED TO EXPORT SENSITIVE FACILITIES
TO COMPETE WITH AMERICAN EFFORTS TO USE ITS
VIRTUAL MONOPOLY IN NUCLEAR FUEL FOR
DISCRIMINATION IN REACTOR SALES.

4. THE "RHEINISCHE POST" (RP) OBSERVES THAT
THE GERMAN AND FRENCH JOINT STATEMENT DENIES
TO PRESIDENT CARTER THE RIGHT TO ACT AS
A NUCLEAR POLICEMAN IN EUROPE. RP SPECULATES
THAT VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE'S APPEALS MAY HAVE
BEEN SO EXPLICIT THAT THEY COULD HAVE BEEN
TAKEN FOR INTERFERENCE AND INSTRUCTION WHICH
PROMPTED THE TWO GOVERNMENTS TO DISPLAY STRONG
SOLIDARITY.

5. "DIE WELT" DOES NOT SEE ANY INDICATION OF
SOLIDARITY BECAUSE THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT
SPOKESMAN REMARKED THERE WAS NO REASON FOR
A JOINT POSITION AGAINST AMERICAN PRESSURE AS
NO SUCH PRESSURE COULD BE FELT. THE "FRANKFURTER
RUNDSCHAU" GOES EVEN FURTHER AND INTERPRETS
THE FINAL STATEMENTS OF SCHMIDT AND D'ESTAING
AS EVIDENCE THAT THE CONSULTATION DID NOT
LEAD TO A JOINT POSITION BUT RATHER REVEALED
SOME FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES IN OPINION.

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